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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,622	12/05/2003	Mark E. Deem	514362000203	2927
7590 JOHN S. NAGY (FULWIDER, PATTON, LEE & UTECHT, LLP) HOWARD HUGHES CENTER 6060 CENTER DRIVE, TENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90045		EXAMINER ANDERSEN, MICHAEL T		
		ART UNIT 3734	PAPER NUMBER	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/30/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/729,622	DEEM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Thomas Andersen	3734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 53-74 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 53-74 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/13/2006

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of the response filed 10/13/2006, to the non-final Office action dated 7/19/2006.

Response to Amendments

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-52 and added claims 53-74. The rejection to these new claims is outlined below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 53, 55-64, and 66-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bessler, U.S. 5,549,621. Bessler discloses an apparatus and method for performing vertical banded gastroplasty.

Specifically, Bessler discloses a method comprising the steps of forming a pouch having a proximal end and a distal end within the stomach cavity, the stomach cavity having a main volume, and the pouch having a pouch volume separate from and in communication with the main volume, wherein the pouch volume is substantially less than the main volume, and wherein the pouch accepts food from and is in communication with the esophagus. See figure 1.

The pouch is formed by placing a longitudinal partition within the stomach cavity using a plurality of fasteners that can be considered tags or clips. See figures 1 and 2, numerals 108, 110, 105.

Bessler discloses that the laparoscopic instrument is capable of rotating, implying that the clamping bars forming the pouch can be applied at an angle. When such is the case, the pouch formed can taper from the proximal end to the distal end, or from the distal end to the proximal end. Figure 1 shows one such pouch having a taper such that the proximal end is larger than the distal end. See also, col. 6, lines 57-62; col. 8, line 63 – col. 9, line 4.

Forming the pouch uses an interior surface of the stomach cavity and at least a portion of an exterior surface of the stomach cavity, similar to Applicant's figures 8A-8B.

Also, forming the pouch from an internally approximated portion of an interior surface of the stomach cavity includes at least two layers of gastric tissue, e.g. the front and back of the stomach.

Bessler further discloses inserting an endoscope into the stomach cavity for guidance when forming the pouch. See col. 7, line 66 – col. 8, line 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 54, 65, and 71-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessler, as applied to claims 53 and 64 above.

Bessler does not specifically disclose forming a pouch having a volume less than about 30 cc. However, forming a pouch having such a volume is considered obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art because such a pouch volume would likely allow an obese person to overcome morbid obesity by allowing the person to feel "full" and therefore refrain from eating more. See, e.g. Bessler, col. 1, lines 40 – 43.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Thomas Andersen whose telephone number is (571) 272-8024. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-4:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Thomas Andersen

January 16, 2007



MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER